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October 4, 2011

PONTIFICAL  
JOHN PAUL II  
INSTITUTE FOR  
STUDIES ON  
MARRIAGE &  
FAMILY  
AT  
THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA

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Most Rev. William F. Medley  
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Your Excellency:

I am writing to announce an important event. Beginning in the Fall of 2012, thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, we will be offering three full scholarships annually to American priests who would like to pursue theological studies at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, in either the S.T.L. or the S.T.D. programs.

Priests who obtain a licentiate or doctoral degree from the American Session of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute receive a thorough, sound, and deep academic formation that, besides enriching their priestly ministry, enables them to teach either systematic or moral theology. Let me explain why this development may be of particular interest to you.

The theological formation offered by the Institute is unique. Its specificity derives not only from the fact that it seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of marriage and family in light of the teachings of the Church and in particular the Second Vatican Council and Blessed John Paul II. It also stems from the breadth and depth of its vision. The mission of the Institute begins with the abiding conviction that the God of Jesus Christ reveals love to be the meaning of God (1Jn 4:8), of the person and, through the person, of all "flesh," the whole of creation (cf. *Familiaris consortio*, 11; *Redemptor hominis*, 10; *Dominum et vivificantem*, 50).

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute is devoted to the study of the truth about the human person in all of its dimensions as revealed in Jesus Christ (*Gaudium et spes*, 22): theological, philosophical, anthropological, cultural, and indeed cosmological-scientific. For this reason, students who pursue a degree at the Institute would be thoroughly prepared to teach systematic or moral theology. Allow me to indicate a few of the most important advantages for American priests who study at the Institute.

First, engaging in theological and philosophical inquiry in America enables us to deal first-hand with the main problems and questions that American culture raises. To communicate the fullness and integrity of the Catholic faith in our American setting requires a long and deeply thought-out encounter with the culture of our times. This encounter helps to deepen the Christian understanding of freedom as the response to God's love, of reason as the participation in God's perception of reality, and the body as the sign of the gift-ness of creation. Without an adequate theological and philosophical anthropology, it is very easy to read the "gift of self" that constitutes the person and the communion of persons of the family in a fragmented way that undermines the richness of this idea. At the Institute we are committed to communicating the fullness of Christian revelation that is entrusted to the

Church and to exploring its implications for the understanding of the person, marriage, and family in an open and critical conversation with our contemporary culture.

Second, professors of the Institute are able to work much more closely with students than is typical even of graduate programs of the highest quality. Being part of a small institution of higher education, professors are able to follow each student personally. In this way we do our best not only to help students complete program requirements in a timely manner, but, more importantly, we strive to help them reach their highest academic potential.

Third, these advantages of a small institution are not offset by the usual disadvantages. The Institute is located in McGivney Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The excellent relationship the Institute has with C.U.A. not only enables us to occupy a magnificent building at the center of the campus; it also allows our students to have the full benefits of the university, such as access to its library and other resources, as well as interactions and exchanges with the highly respected work of C.U.A.'s departments and schools, particularly with the School of Philosophy and the School of Theology and Religious Studies.

Fourth, in Washington, D.C. students can enjoy the proximity of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (across the quadrangle from our building), and have the opportunity to experience the richness of the life of the American Church through the contact with the many student priests from other dioceses and religious orders that send their members to study at our neighboring institutions. In addition, it is easy for a priest to maintain a close relation to his home diocese and his bishop through the years of study.

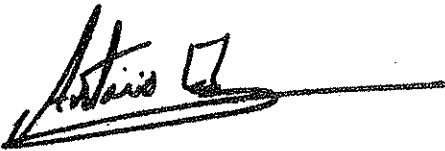
I am aware that we live in a time in which vocations are scarce and that not having the service of a good priest for several years of study is not a minor sacrifice. Nevertheless, precisely because of our very demanding circumstances, what matters most to all of us is to offer our priests the best possible formation in preparation for their work for the people of God. Thus enriched, they will be ready to form others in the fullness of the Christian life.

I hope you will take advantage of this financial opportunity that the generosity of the Knights of Columbus makes possible. You can find more detailed information about the programs on our website ([www.johnpaulii.edu](http://www.johnpaulii.edu)).

If you have further questions or would like to stop by the Institute in one of your forthcoming visits to Washington, D.C., please do not hesitate to contact me.

Assuring you of my prayers for you and your mission, I remain

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio López", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Antonio López, F.S.C.B.  
Dean